NUMB. CCLXV.

The SPECTATOR.

Dixerit è multis aliquis, quid virus in angues
Adjicis? & rabidæ tradis ovile lupæ?
Ovid. de Art. Am.

Thursday, January 3. 1712

ONE of the Fathers, if I am rightly informed, has defined a Woman to be ζῶον φιλόκομον, *an Animal that delights in Finery*. I have already treated of the Sex in two Papers, conformably to this Definition, and in particular obſerved, that in all Ages they have been more careful than the Men to adorn that part of the Head, which we generally call the Outſide. This Obſervation is ſo very notorious, that when in ordinary Diſcourſe we ſay a Man has a fine head, a long Head, or a good Head, we expreſs ourſelves metaphorically, and ſpeak in relation to his Underſtanding; whereas when we ſay of a Woman ſhe has a fine, a long, or a good Head, we mean only in relation to her Commode.

I have obſerved among Birds, that Nature has lavished all her Ornaments upon the Male, who very often appears in a moſt beautiful Head-dreſs: Whether it be a Creſt, a Comb, a Tuft of Feathers, or a Coronal little Plume, erected like a kind of Diadem on the very top of the Head. On the contrary, Nature has poured out her Charms in the Sex with abundance upon the Female part of our Species, ſo they are very aſſiduous in beſtowing upon themſelves the fineſt Garnitures of Art. The Peacock, in all his Pride, does not diſplay half the Colours that appear in the Garments of a *Britiſh* Lady when ſhe is dreſſed either for a Ball or a Birth-Night.

I intend to return to our Female Heads. The Ladies have been for ſome time in a kind of *moulting* Condition with regard to that part of their Dreſs, having caſt great Quantities of Ribbon, Lace, and Cambric: and in ſome meaſure reduced that part of the Human Figure to the beautiful Globular Form, which is natural to it. We have for a great while been in queſt what kind of Ornament would be ſubſtituted in the place of thoſe antiquated Commodes. The Female Projectors were all the laſt Summer taken up with the Improvement of their Petticoats, ſo that they had not time to attend to any thing elſe; but having at length ſufficiently adorned their lower Parts, they now begin to turn their Thoughts upon the other Extremity, as well remembering the old Kitchin Proverb, that if you light your Fire at both Ends, the middle will ſhift for it ſelf.

I am engaged in this Speculation by a ſight which I lately met with at the Opera. As I was ſtanding in the hinder Part of the Box, I took notice of a little Cluſter of Women ſitting together in the prettieſt coloured Hoods that I ever ſaw. One of them was Blew, another Yellow, and another Philomot; the fourth was of a Pink Colour, and the fifth of a pale Green. I looked with as much Pleaſure upon this little party-coloured Aſſembly, as upon a Bed of Tulips, and did not know at firſt whether it might not be an Embaſſie of *Indian* Queens; but upon my going about into the Pit, and taking them in Front, I was immediately undeceived, and ſaw ſo much Beauty in every Face, that I found them all to be *Engliſh*. Such Eyes and Lips, Cheeks and Foreheads, could be the growth of no other Country. The Complection of their Faces hindered me from obſerving any further the Colour of their Hoods, though I could eaſily perceive by that unſpeakable ſatisfaction which appeared in their looks, that their own Thoughts were wholly taken up on thoſe pretty Ornaments they wore upon their Heads.

I am informed that this Faſhion ſpreads daily, inſomuch that the Whig and Tory Ladies begin already to hang out different Colours, and to ſhew their Principles in their Head-dreſs. Nay, if I may believe my Friend WILL. HONEYCOMB, there is a certain old Coquet of his Acquaintance, who intends to appear very ſuddenly in a Rainbow Hood, like the *Iris* in *Dryden*'s *Virgil*, not queſtioning but that among ſuch a variety of Colours ſhe ſhall have a Charm for every Heart.

My Friend WILL. who very much values himſelf upon his great Inſights into Gallantry tells me, that he can already gueſs at the Humour a Lady is in by her Hood, as the Courtiers of *Morocco* know the Diſpoſition of their preſent Emperor by the Colour of the Dreſs which he puts on. When *Meleſinda* wraps her Head in Flame Colour, her Heart is ſet upon Execution. When ſhe covers it with Purple, I would not, ſays he, adviſe her Lover to approach her; but if ſhe appears in White, it is Peace, and he may hand her out of her Box with Safety.

WILL. informs me likewiſe, that theſe Hoods may be uſed as Signals. Why elſe, ſays he, does

Cornelia

Cornelia always put on a Black Hood when her Husband is gone into the Country?

Such are my Friend HONEYCOMB's Dreams of Gallantry. For my own part, I impute this diversity of Colours in the Hoods to the diversity of Complection in the Faces of my pretty Country Women. *Ovid* in his Art of Love has given some Precepts as to this particular, though I find they are different from those which prevail among the Moderns. He recommends a Red striped Silk to the pale Complections; White to the Brown, and Dark to the Fair. On the contrary, my Friend WILL. who pretends to be a greater Master in this Art than *Ovid*, tells me, that the palest Features look the most agreeable in white Sarsnet; that a Face which is overflushed appears to advantage in the deepest Scarlet, and that the darkest Complection is not a little alleviated by a Black Hood. In short, he is for losing the Colour of the Face in that of the Hood, as a Fire burns dimly, and a Candle goes half out in the light of the Sun. This, says he, your *Ovid* himself has hinted, where he treats of these matters when he tells us that the blue Water Nymphs are dressed in Sky-coloured Garments; and that *Aurora*, who always appears in the light of the Rising Sun, is robed in Saffron.

Whether these his Observations are justly grounded I cannot tell; but I have often known him, as we have stood together behind the Ladies, praise or dispraise the Complection of a Face which he never saw, from observing the Colour of her Hood, and has been very seldom out in these his Guesses.

As I have nothing more at Heart than the Honour and Improvement of the fair Sex, I cannot conclude this Paper without an Exhortation to the *British* Ladies, that they would excel the Women of all other Nations as much in Vertue and good Sense, as they do in Beauty; which they may certainly do, if they will be as industrious to cultivate their Minds, as they are to adorn their Bodies: In the mean while I shall recommend to their most serious Consideration the Saying of an old *Greek* Poet,

Γυναικὶ κόσμος ὁ ἡσύχιος, καὶ ἀ νεμεσία.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Thursday, the 3d Day of January, will be presented a Comedy call'd, The Careless Husband. The part of Lord Foppington by Mr. Cibber, Lord Morelove by Mr. Mills, Sir Charles Easy by Mr. Wilks, Lady Betty Modish by Mrs. Oldfield, Lady Graveairs by Mrs. Rogers, Lady Easy by Mrs. Knight. Edgar by Mrs. Bicknell.

By SUBSCRIPTION,

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, on Saturday next, being the 5th Day of January, will be performed an Opera called Antiochus. Tickets will be delivered out at Mrs. White's Chocolate-house, on Friday, and Saturday. To begin exactly at Six.

William Lovejoy, Silkman, at the Cross-Keys in the Strand, near the Fountain Tavern, has to sell a Parcel of new French Bourdeaux Brisk Claret, brought directly from the Port of Southampton, from an Vessel the Providence Prize, being extreamly neat, and in no ones Hands but his own since landed: As also about Eight Jars of Lucca Oil, by the Real Galley, being [illegible] fine; and will sell the Claret for 28 l. per Hogshead, [illegible] Dozen; and the Oil at 15 s. per Gallon, and 3 s. and 6 [illegible]

At the Mountain Wine-Cellar under [illegible] South-Sea Coffee house in Broad-street, is sold by [illegible] Mountain passing Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 12. [illegible] and Red Viana Wine at 13 d. per Bottle; such Persons [illegible] Gallons shall pay but 12 s. there being 23 Bottles, [illegible] and pure from the Grape.

Whereas Mr. Fert, French Dancing-Master, has lately taken the great Dancing Room at the corner of [illegible] Soho, Teaches there every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday [illegible] Ladies or Gentlemen desire to be Taught at their own Houses, [illegible] him he will Wait upon them.

The Delightful Chymical Liquor, for the Teeth, and Gums. Which in a Moment makes the most [illegible] Breath Smell delicately Fine and Charming, and in very little [illegible] infallibly Cures it, so that an offensive Breath will not return; [illegible] ainly makes the blackest and most foul Teeth perfectly White [illegible] and Beautiful to a Miracle; Cures the Scurvy in the Gums, [illegible] so inveterate, making the Flesh grow again, when almost [illegible] way, and infallibly fastens loose Teeth to Admiration, even [illegible] People, who do often falsly think their Age to be the Cause [illegible] short, for delightfully Perfuming, and quickly Curing an [illegible] Breath, for presently making the blackest Teeth most exactly [illegible] certainly fastning them when Loose, effectually preserving [illegible] Rotting or Decaying, and assuredly Curing the Scurvy in [illegible] it has not its Equal in the Universe, as Abundance of the [illegible] and Gentry throughout the Kingdom have Experienced. [illegible] Mr. Payn's a Toy Shop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's [illegible] Yard, near Cheap-side, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

Several Discourses concerning the Terms of [illegible] ance with God, as they are proposed to Christians in [illegible] ment, and several false Notions of Salvation are consider [illegible] Hoadly, M. A. Rector of St. Peters Poor. Printed for J. [illegible] at the Crown in St. Paul's Church Yard, pr. 5 s. Where [illegible] his Measures of Submission, pr. 3 s. his Original of Govern [illegible] 3 s. And his Reasonableness of Conformity and his Defence [illegible] pacy are now Reprinting in 1 Vol. The 3d Edition of [illegible] That the 2 former Editions were sold for 10 s. 6 d.

This Day is Publish'd,

Dr. Tilly's Sermon on the Parable of the [illegible] Preached before the Lord Mayor, November 21. 1721, price [illegible] Historical Account of the Heathen Gods and Heroes; a [illegible] Understanding of the Ancient Poets. Being an improvement [illegible] ever but heretofore written by the Greek, Latin, French [illegible] glish Authors upon that Subject. By Dr. King, price 2 s. [illegible] ex Ovidii Fabiis, per Thomam Johnson, usui Scholæ [illegible] price 1 s. All Mr. Farquhar's Comedies, price 6 s. Call [illegible] Art of getting pretty Children, price 2 s. 6 d. The late [illegible] dendale's Translation of Virgil, price 5 s. All Printed [illegible] Lintot at the Cross Keys between the two Temple Gates [illegible] street. Where may be had Mr. Steele's three Comedies, [illegible] and Madam Dacier's Homer Translated into English, with [illegible] 2 l. 6 s.

This Day begins to be Sold at the [illegible] Ware-house in Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, a curious [illegible] valuable Books in most Languages and Faculties, among [illegible] Sanford's Blazon, Paris Ed. Cooper's Anatomy, large Paper [illegible] ural Herbal, and many hundred Manuscript Sermons, and [illegible] ble Manuscripts, and Books of Prints, and a pair of [illegible] Globes; and many Books of Prints relating to the Beauties, with the lowest Prices in the first Leaf of every [illegible] Sale will continue till the whole be Sold. N. B. There [illegible] Beveridge's Works in Greek, Latin and English, and [illegible] any Library or parcel of Books.

The Retir'd Gard'ner, or, Dialogues [illegible] a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Method [illegible] Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, [illegible] the Manner of Planning and Cultivating Flowers, Physick [illegible] and Under-Shrubs, necessary for the Adorning of Gardens [illegible] which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Disposing [illegible] upon, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, [illegible] other Pieces and Compartments usually found in the [illegible] ful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd [illegible] of Figures, being a Translation from the Mons. Le [illegible] which is added, a Description and Plan of Count [illegible] at Nottingham. The whole Revis'd, with several [illegible] Additions, which render it proper for our English [illegible] George London, and Henry Wise. Printed for J. [illegible] at Shakespear's Head over against Catharine-Street in the [illegible]

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*: Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in: as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.